

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GUATEM 02447 030008Z

60

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 NSCE-00 AID-20 OMB-01 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06

SIL-01 NIC-01 SY-04 OPR-02 INRE-00 SCCT-02 USSS-00

A-01 FBO-01 OC-06 CCO-00 SCA-01 SCS-03 DRC-01 PC-04

SSO-00 /145 W

----- 014482

O R 022325Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2995

INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

CINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 2447

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, ELAB

SUBJECT: MAY DAY: GOG BLAMES NATIONAL OPPOSITION FRONT FOR
VIOLENCE; DCG DEPUTY JULIO DE LEON FLORES AMONG WOUNDED

REF: GUATEMALA 2426

SUMMARY: GOG OFFICIAL BULLETIN DATED MAY 1 CHARGES LEADERS
OF OPPOSITION FRONT WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR VIOLENCE DURING
MAY DAY DEMONSTRATION REPORTED REFTEL. BULLETIN WARNED
OPPOSITIN LEADERS TO DESIST FROM "CONSPIRACY" AGAINST THE
GOG OR FACE "DRASTIC" TREATMENT. DCG DEPUTY DE LEON
FLORES AMONG WOUNDED DURING RALLY AND IS REPORTED IN
GRAVE CONDITION. RESPONSIBILITY FOR MAY DAY DISTURBANCES
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 GUATEM 02447 030008Z

DIFFICULT TO PLACE, BUT IS LIKELY TO ENGENDER FURTHER

VIOLENCE. END SUMMARY.

1. ON AFTERNOON OF MAY 1, GOG ISSUED LONG BULLETIN REGARDING PUBLIC DISTURBANCES THAT OCCURRED DURING MAY DAY RALLY. BULLETIN DECLARED THAT SECTORS WHICH HAD NOT ACCEPTED DEFEAT IN MARCH 3 ELECTIONS HAD TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF PEACEFUL WORKERS' DEMONSTRATION IN ORDER TO CREATE ANARCHY AND CARRY COUNTRY INTO NEW PERIOD OF VIOLENCE AND TERRORISM. BULLETIN ASSERTED THAT MANUEL COLOM ARGUETA, RENE DE LEON SCHLOTTER, AND DANILO BARILLAS HAD SENT "ASSAULT GROUP" INTO MAY DAY MARCH TO CREATE DISORDER AND TO SHOOT AT MARCHERS, RESULTING IN DEATHS OF TWO AND WOUNDING OF SEVERAL OTHERS. AMONG WOUNDED WERE DEPUTY JULIO DE LEON FLORES, WHOM BULLETIN IDENTIFIED AS DCG DISSIDENT AND ALLY OF CARLOS GEHLERT MATA, WHO IS "ESPECIALLY HATED BY COLOM ARGUETA."

2. BULLETIN WENT ON TO: 1, WARN PUBLIC AND ESPECIALLY WORKERS NOT TO ALLOW UNSCRUPULOUS POLITICAL GROUPS TO USE THEM TO INTERRUPT NORMAL TRANSFER OF POWER (ON JULY 1); 2, LAMENT THAT WORKERS' DEMONSTRATION HAD BEEN USED TO COMPROMISE WORKING CLASS; 3, CONDEMN USE OF VIOLENCE; 4, DELCARE THAT FULL FORCE OF LAW WOULD FALL ON "INTELLECTUAL" AND "MATERIAL" AUTHORS OF VIOLENCE; 5, ADVISE PUBLIC THAT DISTURBANCE PART OF CONSPIRACY AGAINST GOG THAT HAD INCLUDED ASSASSINATIONS OF EDMUNDO GUERRA TEILHEIMER AND MARIO MONTERROSO ARMAS WITH PURPOSE OF BLAMING GOVERNMENT; AND 6, DENOUNCE THAT "THOSE SECTORS" HAD PREPARED GROUND FOR VIOLENCE THROUGH CIRCULATION OF SUBVERSIVE FLIERS. BULLETIN THEN DESCRIBED DCG AND FEDERATED WORKERS' CENTRAL (CTF) FLIERS OF LATE APRIL THAT WERE CHARACTERIZED AS SUBVERSIVE AND CONCLUDED THAT OPPOSITION FRONT AND CLANDESTINE GROUPS HAD JOINED IN CONSPIRACY.

3. GOG BULLETIN CLOSED WITH A "LAST WARNING" TO THE "DEFEATED LEADERS" OF THE OPPOSITION TO REMAIN WITHIN THE LAW OR THEY WOULD BE TREATED "DRASTICALLY." IT SAID THAT LEGAL ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN AGAINST THE GUILTY, "INCLUDING THOSE WHO SHIELD THEMSELVES IN IMPORTANT PUBLIC POSTS." FINALLY, BULLETIN CLAIMED THAT NATIONAL POLICE HAD NOT CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 GUATEM 02447 030008Z

FIRED THEIR WEAPONS.

4. EARLY ON MAY 2, GOG ESTABLISHED NATIONAL RADIO NET PUTTING ALL STATIONS ON OFFICIAL PROGRAM OF BULLETINS AND MARIMBA MUSIC. STATIONS RELEASED FROM NET AT 8:30 A.M.

5. JULIO DE LEON FLORES, WHO IS ALSO PRINCIPAL LEADER OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC AFFILIATED NATIONAL CONFEDERATION

OF WORKERS (CNT), WAS WOUNDED, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, IN ABDOMEN AND IS IN GRAVE CONDITION. LA NACION REPORTED THAT DE LEON SHOT AT RALLY AS HE BEGAN TO SPEAK, AND SAID THAT COLOM ARGUETA WAS AT HIS SIDE. IN LIGHT OF OTHER INFORMATION THIS REPORTS APPEARS INACCURATE. LA NACION ALSO REPORTED THAT THREE PERSONS WERE KILLED AND 20 WOUNDED.

6. AT 2:00 P.M. MAY 2, RADIO BROADCAST OFFICIAL STATEMENT BY COLOM ARGUETA IN WHICH MAYER REJECTED ACCUSATIONS IN GOG BULLETIN THAT OPPOSITION FRONT RESPONSIBLE FOR DEATHS. HE REITERATED CHARGE THAT DEATHS HAD BEEN CAUSED BY GOVERNMENT'S "FORCES OF REPRESSION." COLOM ALSO DENOUNCED DEATH THREATS AGAINST HIM OVER LAST FEW WEEKS AND CHARACTERIZED MAY 1 BULLETIN AS PART OF PARCEL OF THREATS. HE DECLARED THAT HE WOULD NOT ABANDON HIS POST IN THE MUNICIPALITY.

7. COMMENT: EVENTS OF MAY 1 CLOUDED IN MYSTERY AS GOG CLAIMS OPPOSITION FRONT DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR DEATHS, WHILE OPPOSITION AND LABOR LEADERS WHO SPOKE AT RALLY IN FRONT OF MUNICIPALITY BLAMED POLICE. ACCORDING TO SOME SOURCES, DEATHS AND WOUNDINGS CAUSED BY SHOTGUNS, ALTHOUGH THESE REPORTS ARE NOT CONFIRMED. OUR INFORMATION THUS FAR INDICATES THAT POLICE RIOT SQUAD DID NOT USE FIREARMS IN CONTROLLING DEMONSTRATORS.

8. WE CONJECTURE THAT ONE OF THREE SECTORS COULD HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR DEATHS: GOVERNMENT SECURITY FORCES; RIGHT-WING EXTREMISTS ACTING INDEPENDENTLY OF GOVERNMENT; OR LEFT-WING EXTREMISTS. WHICHEVER BEARS THE BLAME, AND WE HAVE NO INFORMATION YET ON SOURCE OF VIOLENCE, THE DISTURBANCES HAVE MADE THE POLITICAL SITUATION TENSE
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 04 GUATEM 02447 030008Z

WITH STRONG POSSIBILITY THT MORE VIOLCNCE WILL COME. GOG BULLETIN APPEARS TO BE DRAFTED WITH MANUEL COLOM IN MIND AND LANGUAGE, EXPECIALLY FOR OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT STATEMENT, IS IMINOUS. UNDER SECRETARY OF PRESIDENCY AND PID SEC GEN DONALDO ALVAREZ TOLD US AT LUNCH TODAY THAT WHILE HE WAS NOT SURE WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR DEATHS, COLOM WAS A LIKELY SUSPECT AND WAS IN ANY EVENT LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EVENTS WHICH LED UP TO THE SHOOTING. ALVAREZ DEPLORED INCIDENT AND HIPED THERE WOULD BE NO FURTHER VIOLENCE, BUT SAID THAT GOG CONSEDERED MAY DAY EVENTS TO BE A "DIRECT PROVOCATION" OF THE GOVERNMENT. AS FOR COLOM, HE REPORTEDLY WILL LEAVE GUATEMALA MAY 2 FOR SHORT VISIT TO VENEZUELA. FUNERAL SERVICES FOR DEAD MARCHERS HAVE NOT YET BEEN SCHEDULED. END COMMENT.
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